

K9ATBOOC

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK  
3 -----x

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

5 v.

11 CR 912 (JFK)

6 ERIC BOOTHE,

7 Defendant.  
-----x

8 New York, N.Y.  
9 September 10, 2020  
10 11:15 a.m.

11 Before:

12 HON. JOHN F. KEENAN,

13 District Judge

14 APPEARANCES

15 AUDREY STRAUSS

16 Acting United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

17 THOMAS BURNETT

Assistant United States Attorney

18 MEREDITH HELLER

19 Attorney for Defendant

20 ALSO PRESENT: SANDRA OSMAN, U.S. Probation Officer

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1 (Case called)

2 THE COURT: Good morning, everyone, you may all be  
3 seated.

4 This is in the United States of America against Eric  
5 Boothe, and Mr. Burnett is here for the government and we have  
6 somebody, I take it, from probation, Ms. Osman, is that right?

7 MS. OSMAN: Yes, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: And Ms. Heller is here for the defense.  
9 Good morning, Ms. Heller.

10 MS. HELLER: Good morning, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: And Mr. Boothe is present. Good morning,  
12 to you.

13 What's your pleasure?

14 MR. BURNETT: Your Honor, we're here for a plea to the  
15 first of two specifications that Mr. Boothe has been charged  
16 with, and a sentencing on that first specification.

17 THE COURT: I heard the beginning but the mask sort of  
18 camouflaged the second part of it. I heard there's a plea to  
19 two specifications, right?

20 MR. BURNETT: Sorry, a plea to the first of two  
21 specifications and the sentencing on that specification.

22 THE COURT: You want sentencing today?

23 MR. BURNETT: Yes, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Is that agreeable to you, Ms. Heller?

25 MS. HELLER: Yes, your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: All right.

2 DEPUTY CLERK: Do we need marshals, sir?

3 MR. BURNETT: No, we believe we'll be recommending  
4 time served.

5 THE COURT: Okay, then we don't need marshals.

6 Okay. Thank you. Would you rise then, Mr. Boothe,  
7 please.

8 Would you swear the defendant, please.

9 (Defendant sworn)

10 THE COURT: Now Mr. Boothe, what is your full name?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Eric Boothe, Eric Steven Lynn Boothe.

12 THE COURT: Okay. And is it your desire to plead  
13 guilty to Specification One of these two violations?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: Is that what you want to do?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

17 THE COURT: And did you discuss it with Ms. Heller  
18 before you decided to plead?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: And did she explain to you that I could  
21 sentence you, and the guidelines are all the way up to four  
22 months, do you understand that?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: And you're entitled to a hearing on the  
25 violation, do you understand that?

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1                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

2                   THE COURT: And if there were a hearing, it would be  
3 the government's burden to prove that you were guilty of the  
4 violation and the government would have to prove that to my  
5 satisfaction by a fair preponderance of the evidence. Do you  
6 understand that?

7                   THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

8                   THE COURT: Is it a fact that on or about the 24th day  
9 of December last year, in other words, Christmas Eve last year,  
10 2019, you failed to report to the probation officer as  
11 directed?

12                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

13                  THE COURT: And you knew you were supposed to report?

14                  THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

15                  THE COURT: So you want to tell me what you want as to  
16 sentence, Ms. Heller?

17                  MS. HELLER: Yes, your Honor, I believe the government  
18 and I have agreed to hopefully time served. Mr. Boothe's  
19 supervision was supposed to terminate in May. He has been in  
20 contact with Ms. Osman regularly and the additional time he's  
21 spent under supervision I think is sufficient for this  
22 violation. Thank you.

23                  THE COURT: Is that correct, Mr. Burnett, did you  
24 recommend time served?

25                  MR. BURNETT: That's correct, your Honor, the

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1 government recommends a sentence of time served. Mr. Boothe  
2 spent a brief period in custody following his arrest on this  
3 specification and then has remained in touch with Ms. Osman  
4 while he has been on release, which I understand he's complied  
5 with the terms of. There was one positive marijuana test  
6 recently, but we don't believe that's a reason for a custodial  
7 sentence. So we believe time served and the completion of his  
8 supervised release is the proper disposition.

9 THE COURT: When does supervised release end,  
10 Ms. Osman?

11 MS. OSMAN: The question was when was it ending?  
12 May 11 of 2020 this year.

13 THE COURT: It ended.

14 MS. OSMAN: It already expired.

15 THE COURT: In other words, he's not on supervised  
16 release after this plea?

17 MR. BURNETT: That's correct, and we don't think a new  
18 term should be imposed.

19 THE COURT: Okay. All right. I accept the plea. And  
20 I sentence the defendant to time served because that's been  
21 agreed to by both the defense and the government and that's  
22 what they want.

23 Now you have gotten -- I mean I don't know whether you  
24 think that you got a break on the plea, Mr. Boothe, but it's a  
25 fact that you did get a break on the plea and you're getting a

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1 big break now. Stay safe, will you, please? We got plenty of  
2 cases, we don't need you.

3 Stay out of trouble, will you please?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: Okay, thank you very much. Good luck to  
6 you. Thank you.

7 MS. OSMAN: Thank you, your Honor.

8 MS. HELLER: Thank you, your Honor.

9 (Adjourned)

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